# THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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## FEW THERE--MUCH TALK

### CHIEF FEATURES OF WEDNESDAY NIGHTS MYSTERIOUS MEETING.

**The Ostensible Purpose of the Conference was to Talk Water, but the Beer Question Got Mixed in with the Main Topic—The Election of an Excise Board said to be the Town's Only Hope for Bettrr Government—Will Municipal Ownership Win?**

A few residents of this town received on Monday a letter postmarked New York city. The letter read as follows: "What ought Bloomfield to do about water?" and then went on to say: "It has been requested by a number of gentlemen that a conference be called of about twenty-five or thirty prominent public-spirited citizens to consider the above question. Your presence is especially requested at Central Hall, January 6, at 8 P. M.

"Bloomfield, January 4, 1904."

The letter was unsigned, and there was no intimation given as to who the "gentlemen" were who had requested the calling together of "twenty-five or thirty public-spirited citizens." Some of the recipients of the invitation felt flattered over classification as "prominent" and "public-spirited." Others felt somewhat embarrassed over the suddenness with which greatness had been thrust upon them, but all, with but few exceptions, were somewhat mystified by the receipt of the letter. No amount of inquiry could shed the least information as to who had called the meeting, and as to whether or not it was a pro or con movement on the issue of municipal ownership. Numerous people who were shown the invitation felt somewhat envious over the distinction conferred on a few, and cast some disparaging reflections on the author's judgment as to who were the "prominent" and "public-spirited" citizens of the town. Members of the Town Council who, by virtue of their office, are justly entitled to be designated as prominent, and who are expected to be prompted by public-spiritedness in all their acts, were spoken to about the matter, and all were in ignorance of the meeting, both as to who had called it and why it was called. Councilman Walker of the Second Ward, who has been an ardent advocate of public meetings for the discussion of the water question, was nonplussed to understand why such a gathering as that outlined in the invitation submitted for his inspection should be held. Town officials outside of the Councilmen were equally ignorant of the proposed meeting, and were puzzled and anxious to know who called it and why it was called.

On Wednesday evening about a dozen citizens thrust aside their diffidence and modestly went to Central Hall and essayed to play the roll of "prominent" and "public-spirited" citizens. The meeting was in no wise formal, and took on the nature of a conference. Those who participated disclaimed being present through any personal estimation of their prominence, or from a belief that they were endowed above their fellows with an undue measure of public spirit. The ostensible object of the meeting, "the water question," was the first subject approached, but as other matters that bore directly or indirectly upon the main issue were injected into the talk, the discussion developed into a general round-up of municipal affairs in general, and the talk continued long into the night, with the result that the zero weather of Wednesday morning was followed by greatly moderated weather on Thursday.

The first question propounded for solution was, "Why did the citizen members of the Committee of Fifteen advise an offer of $90,000 to the Orange Water Company for its plant, and then turn around and urge that no such offer be made, but a new contract be made with the Orange Water Company?" Some of those present ventured to theorize as to possible explanations of the attitude of the members of the Committee of Fifteen, but as no representative of that body was present nothing but guess work could be indulged in.

On the question of making a new contract, those present were in a position to express their own opinions, and some of them did so in a clear and positive manner. One man said he would not favor a contract if Passaic river water was to be the source of supply.

The query was propounded, "Why is it that citizen members of the Committee of Fifteen are not taking some measure towards informing the people as to why it would be better to make a new contract with the Orange Water Company than to purchase that company's plant?" A volunteered answer to

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Violin and piano instruction at pupil's home or teacher's residence. For terms address William J. Maier, 17 Fairmount avenue, Newark,

### New Taxing Method.

The State Board of Taxation has decided to extend the scode of the method of making assessments on the value of real estate by local taxing authorities, under the provisions of the tax revision act of last year. The proposed extension is provided for in rule nine of the regulations adopted by the State Board for the guidance of local authories.

In conformity with this rule Secretary Thomas B. Usher has issued a circular letter, which has been sent, apparently to the local officials of the taxing districts named therein, although at the office of the Tax Board in Newark both President Paul and Secretary McCann announced yesterday that they had neither received a copy of the instructions, nor had they been informed officially or otherwise of the order of the State Board relative to the proposed change in the method of fixing the assessments.

The notification by the State Board is given in the following terms: "It is hereby ordered by the State Board of Taxation, under and by virtue of the act entitled 'An act for the assessment and collection of taxes,' approved April 8, 1903, that hereafter in all assessments of real estate in certain taxing districts of this State, the Assessor or other taxing officer whose duty it is by law to make such assessments, shall determine the value of each parcel, lot or tract of real estate assessed in such taxing district, without the buildings and improvements, and shall determine and note separately the true value of every house and other building or structure on each parcel, lot or tract of real estate, and the whole shall be added and carried out as the value of such parcel, lot or tract.

"It is hereby further ordered that this order shall apply to the cities of Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, Camden, Trenton, New Brunswick, Elizabeth, Hoboken, Bayonne, Orange, East Orange, Passaic, Bridgeton, Atlantic City, Perth Amboy, Plainfield, Salem, Rahway, Millville, Englewood and Asbury Park, and the towns of Phillipsburg, Morristown, Harrison, Bloomfield, Irvington, Montclair, West Hoboken, Union and Kearny."

### The Logic of Figures.

For some years previous to the purchase by East Orange of the distributing system of the Orange Water Company, certain select coteries and individual citizens amused themselves and the public with periodical tirades against the water company on account of the enormous profit it was squeezing out of the people of East Orange, and the ridiculously high tax exemption allowed the company in exchange for water for all public purposes except hydrant service. The report of the Water Committee for the year ending October 1st gives a few figures that show how absolutely unfair those tirades were. The statement shows a credit balance in the year's operations of $5,000, but does not take into account the saving of $11,000 on hydrant service or allow for the annual sinking fund instalment on the bonds, which would be about the same amount. We can therefore reckon that the department shows a profit of $5,000 for the year, but this profit would be turned to a substantial loss if it had not been for the generosity of the company in donating to the city a water supply that has saved it at least $20,000 per year. Another item that stands to the credit of the company in a comparison is the interest charge of $9,500 in the city's report, which is figured at 3½ per cent. on $350,000, while the water company could hardly have been called greedy if it had hoped to earn at least 5 per cent. on $100,000 more than that sum to cover the city's expert valuation of the pumping plant. Either the city must confess to being a poor manager or else the water company did not enjoy such a bonaza as the carpers seemed to think.

In regard to the tax exemption, it is interesting to note that the Water Committee figures $11,200 as the value of the water for public purposes, for which last year the company secured tax exemption of $2,265, or nearly $9,000 less than the Council's own committee now reports the service to be worth. Justice comes slowly, but these figures certainly show that the water company was not oppressive in its demands or unreasonable in its profits.—*East Orange Gazette.*

### Watsessing Y. M. C. A. Notes

Mr. Wm. H. Osborne, a New York lawyer, will speak at the Watsessing Y. M. C. A. to-night. Mr. Osborne is not only a successful lawyer, but a writer, and he will speak about "The Story of a Stolen Story."

### Carpet Cleanig.

Now is the time to clean carpets. If you want your carpets taken up, cleaned and relaid, send word to D. Douglass, No. 9 Park street, Montclair. Mr. Douglass has had years of experience in carpet cleaning, and has a large patronage in this town, Glen Ridge and Montclair. Those intending to move can have their carpets taken up, cleaned and relaid on short notice. The work will be well and promptly done.—*Advt.*

## MONOPOLE'S BIG WEEK.

**Edward F. O'Neil's Fast Sorrel Wins a $50 Silver Cup at Rahway and Puts all of Newark's Crack Horses to the Rear on Central Avenue—Mr. O'Neil's Advice to His Rivals.**

Edward F. O'Neil's well-known sorrel pacer Monopole met and defeated Harry McKee's black pacer Ivanhoe at Rahway on New Year's Day. Monopole and Ivanhoe are rival Essex County horses for supremacy in road work, and Mr. McKee was of the opinion up to Friday that he had the fastest horse, and the price he paid for his animal justified him in holding that opinion.

The road races on New Year's Day were arranged by the proprietor of Taylor's Hotel, Rahway, and the course was about three-quarters of a mile straightaway. The meet was attended by a large number of leading horsemen of Essex and Union Counties. M. O'Neil left home with Monopole about 1 o'clock in the afternoon, simply intending to join the spectators at the races. When he arrived there Mr. McKee was anxious that Ivanhoe be given a chance to show his ability to outdistance Monopole, and many other horsemen joined in importuning Mr. O'Neil to get in the race, Landlord Taylor among them.

The long drive that Monopole had just gone through and the fact that the horse was not shod properly for a slippery road caused Mr. O'Neil to hesitate about entering, but he finally consented to do so, and four horses got in readiness for the start of the first heat. Ivanhoe was given the right of the road.

One of Monopole's great points in road racing is his ability to get off quick, and the sorrel shot right into the lead and kept it to the end, winning by about ten lengths. The second heat was a repetition of the first. Monopole got a quick lead and held it. In the third heat Monopole easily outdistanced the other horses and won by several rods.

The prize, a large and beautiful silver cup, the first trophy of its kind ever offered for road races, was presented to Mr. O'Neil by Landlord Taylor. Monopole's victory was hailed with great enthusiasm, and the owner had to respond to the loud clamors for a speech. Mr. O'Neil was invited to call again with his horse on Washington's Birthday, when the Union County men will endeavor to wrest Monopole's laurels as a road racer from the fast sorrel.

On Wednesday afternoon Theodore F. Maxfield drove Monopole to a cutter on Central avenue; the sleighing was excellent and the weather fine, and there was a large turnout of Newark's spirited horses, but Monopole carried off the honors. On Thursday afternoon there was another large assemblage of horsemen on Central avenue and Mr. Maxfield was again on hand with Monopole. The Newark crowd brought with them the well-known and speedy horse Ogden A. for the particular purpose of forcing Monopole to a rear place in the procession. Mr. Maxfield had never been up against the new horse, but Mr. O'Neil knew that the animal was a good one and that the Newarkers placed great reliance on it. An interested crowd assembled at McCabe's to see the finish, and Mr. O'Neil had to put up with considerable jollying. Mr. Maxfield carefully sized up his antagonist in the first heat and did not give him much leeway. For three successive heats Ogden A. was in the rear when the horses passed McCabe's. The Newarkers were crestfallen, and Mr. O'Neil took a turn in the jolly by saying to them: "It is of no use gentlemen; you have got to go outside of Newark to get a horse to beat Monopole."

### Sleighing Accident.

Samuel Creese, the blacksmith, started out for a sleigh ride Thursday night. His wife and child were with him. He stopped at a store on Glenwood avenue to make a purchase, and while he was in the store the horse suddenly started and made a sharp turn in the street. Mrs. Creese and her child were thrown out of the sleigh, but escaped injury. The horse ran away, and at the Centre got upon the sidewalk in front of the bank building and slipped. Several bystanders grasped the fallen animal and held it. It was badly cut from the fall and was taken to Budd's stables.

### A Narrow Escape.

A bob sleigh loaded with young people had a narrow escape from a collision with a trolley car at the foot of the Bay avenue hill Wednesday afternoon. A serious accident was only averted by the pluck and presence of mind of Harry Crane, who was acting as steersman. Just as a collision seemed inevitable Crane exerted all his strength and managed to throw the bob to one side and the sleigh went down the little embankment and stopped on the little stream known as the Third river. No one was injured.

### Musical Instruction.

Mrs. Bennett-Francis. For terms and further particulars call at or address 85 Race Street, Bloomfield, N. J.—*Advt.*

## FREE PUBLIC LECTURES.

**The First of the Series Under the Auspices of the Board of Education Took Place in Centre School Thursday Night and was Largely Attended and Much Enjoyed.**

The first of this season's series of free public lectures given under the auspices of the Board of Education was given Thursday night in Centre School hall and was enjoyed by a large audience. The lecturer was the Rev. William Torrence Stuchell of Rahway and his subject was "Switzerland," illustrated. The lecturer showed a large number of very fine views of celebrated mountain scenery in Switzerland, vivid descriptions of mountain climbing, short historic narratives and quotations from the inspired poets who have sung of the Swissland and its scenery were interesting features of the lecture in addition to the views.

Some of those present at the lecture had personally visited several of the places portrayed and they pronounced the pictures excellent. The other lectures in this year's course will be as follows; January 21, "Italian Painting, the Florentine School," Mr. George E. Clancy; January 28, "Central Italian and Venetian School," Mr. Clancy; February 4, "The Cost of a Thing and the Pay of its Makers" Henry R. Mussy; February 18, "The Sun," an illustrated lecture, Professor Robert W. Prentiss; March 3, "The Stars and Stripes of Humanity's Struggle for Liberty," an illustrated lecture, Rev. Henry R. Rose; March 17, "What to Do in Case of Accidents," Dr. John Douglas.

Mr. Clancy, who gives the next lecture, will have with him the Dartmouth College collection of plates showing views of the paintings of the Italian masters.

It will be to the interest of the people of this town to make an effort to attend this course of lectures, and also to exert their personal influence in getting others to attend. The State makes a liberal provision for this branch of educational work and the allotment of State aid is in proportion to the public interest in the work.

### New Yorkers Won.

Unable to cope with the greater weight and superior team play of its opponent, the Twenty-third street five of New York, the Catholic Club senior basket-ball team went down to defeat Thursday night by the score of 60 to 16. It was a battle against giants that the home boys put up, and though the latter fought gamely their efforts were of no great avail.

During the first half the New Yorkers did not exert themselves to any great extent, but managed to score thirteen field goals to the home team's four. Eberlin and Shields were the factors in the visitors' scoring in this period of play. From the start of the second half it was a different story, the visitors tallying goal after goal. In this period they netted seventeen baskets to Bloomfield's four. The line-up:

| Bloomfield. | | Twenty-third Street. |
|---|---|---|
| McGinley | right forward | Eberlin |
| McGonnell | left forward | Shields |
| Maxfield | centre | Abodie |
| Johnson | right guard | Bead |
| Cavanaugh | left guard | Dietreich |

Score at end of first half—Bloomfield 8, Twenty-third Street 26. Final score—Bloomfield 16, Twenty-third Street 60. Time of halves—20 minutes. Referee—Dunigan of Bloomfield. Umpire—Carroll of Bloomfield. Timekeepers—Read of Twenty-third Street and Biggins of Bloomfield.

### Firemen's Mass-Meeting.

Invitations will be sent out to every active and exempt member of the fire department, requesting their attendance at a firemen's mass-meeting to be held in Central Hall some evening next week for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to the fire department. Resolutions, it is said, will be adopted demanding that the Town Council take action toward procuring headquarters for Essex Truck Company and Phoenix Hose Company. The Fire Insurance Underwriters, it is alleged, will be represented at the meeting, either in person or by letter, and will make known that unless some action is taken by the Town Council toward better housing of the Essex Truck and Phoenix Hose Companies an increase in fire insurance rates will be made in this town. It is anticipated that there will be a large attendance at the firemen's meeting.

### The Utopian Club.

The Utopian Club met at the home of Miss Louida Fuller of Hillside avenue Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Roscoe Hart read a paper on "Current Events." Miss Eunice Wilson reviewed a paper published by the Anarchists, entitled "Liberty." Miss Florence Brewer reviewed Jack London's new book, "People of the Abyss." The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Nelson Chitterling, Windsor place, January 27.

### Death of Mrs. Reid.

Mrs. Lily Sophia Reid, wife of Armour D. Reid, a New York insurance broker, died at her home, No. 107 Clark street, Glen Ridge, Sunday, after a short illness of typhoid fever. Mrs. Reid was a native of Canada, and she resided in Glen Ridge about three years. She is survived by her husband and three children.

### Town Council.

The Town Council met in regular session Monday night.

Councilman Conlan, Chairman of the Finance Committee, submitted the financial report of Town Treasurer Harry L. Osborne for the month of December.

On recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Treasurer was authorized to pay off town notes to the amount of $20,474.80. The notes paid off were $16,000 issued in anticipation of taxes, a Board of Health note for $4,000, and the Charles street sewer note of $574.88.

Councilman Moore, Chairman of the Legal Committee, made the usual motion deferring action on the Essex Cross Railway franchise application.

Councilman Conlan of the Road Committee reported that Antone Serratelli had agreed to sign the contract awarded to him some time ago for the opening of Weaver avenue and Cedar street, and also that questions of dispute in regard to the adjustment of assessments for that work had been settled. The work of opening the street will be proceeded with as soon as the weather permits.

Mr. Conlan also reported that the disputes over the Olive street opening assessment had been settled to the satisfaction of all concerned, and the ordinance for the opening of that street passed final reading.

Chief of Police Collins reported twelve arrests made during the month of December, and $58 collected in fines.

A letter from Roland Travis of Morse avenue was read by the Clerk, in which Mr. Travis complained that the men who operate the snow plows do not open a path along Carteret street on the occasion of snow storms. Mr. Travis presented bills for the personal services of himself and John Bland for labor performed in shovelling a path from Morse avenue along Carteret street to Prospect street. The bills were referred to the Sidewalk Committee.

Collector of Taxes Frank Foster submitted to the Council the list of unpaid taxes for the year 1902, and the Collector was authorized to proceed with the advertisement of sale of the properties.

When the Council adjourned it was to meet again Monday evening, the 11th inst.

Councilman Farrand did not make any further report on the fire-house matter, and the water question was not discussed by the Council.

### Duffield-McKenna.

President and Mrs. Roosevelt, the members of the Cabinet and their wives and other distinguished personages attended the wedding at noon on Wednesday in Washington, D. C., of Miss Isabel McKenna, daughter of Justice McKenna of the Supreme Court, to Mr. Pitts Duffield of New York, son of Gen. H. M. Duffield of Detroit. The wedding took place at the McKenna residence on Rhode Island avenue. The invitations were limited to the relatives and intimate friends of the bride and bridegroom. The Supreme Court Justices attended the wedding. Mr. Duffield is the nephew of Justice Brown.

The bride is the eldest of the three daughters of Justice and Mrs. McKenna. Mr. Duffield had as best man Mr. Edgar Mills of New York and San Francisco, and as attendants his brothers, Mr. Devie Duffield and Mr. Kenneth Duffield of Detroit. Mr. Duffield is a member of the publishing house of Fox & Duffield of New York. The bride wore a handsome gown of white satin elaborately trimmed in old lace, and the bridesmaids wore gowns of white lace and large white lace hats. The wedding gifts were numerous and costly.

Mrs. Duffield and Kenneth G. Duffield, Dr. Harry E. Richards and Mrs. Richards of this town were among the guests at the wedding.

### Guild Lectures.

On Monday evening the First Church Guild will resume its course of entertainments with a lecture on "Animal Life and Death," by Rev. Wm. J. Long, D. D. Dr. Long is an authority on animal life, spending considerable periods in the woods studying the haunts and habits of wild animals and has written several books on this subject. He is an interesting lecturer and a trip with him to the heart of the wilderness will be both profitable and entertaining. The balance of the season's course, as just announced, promises to be fully up to the standard of previous years, and is as follows: Monday, January, 25, 1904, "The Pacific Coast from San Diego to Portland," Mr. Dwight L. Elmendorf; Monday, February 15, 1904, "Glimpses, Humorous and Pathetic, of Scottish Life One Hundred and Fifty Years Ago," Rev. Donald Sage Mackay, D. D.; Monday, February 29, 1904, "America's Great Place Among the Nations," Rev. R. S. MacArthur, D. D.; Monday, March 14, 1904, "How Worlds are Made," Mr. Garrett P. Serviss; Monday, March 28, 1904, concert.

Dorflinger glassware is peculiarly adapted for the engraving, etching or gilding of arms, crests, monograms, and other devices. C. Dorflinger & Sons, 3 and 5 West 19th Street, near Fifth Avenue, New York.—*Advt.*

## DISASTROUS FIRE.

### DESTRUCTION OF GEORGE C. WHITE'S HANDSOME GLEN RIDGE RESIDENCE.

**The Fire Broke Out Early in the Afternoon and was in Progress Over an Hour Before any Firemen Appeared—Montclair Department the First to Respond to Appeals for Help—Loss Estimated at $40,000.**

The Glen Ridge Borough Council will hold a meeting on Monday night, at which some matters pertaining to Tuesday afternoon's disastrous fire will be discussed. The impudent answer of somebody in the Montclair Water Company's office to the request for increased water pressure will be one phase of the case to be brought to the attention of the Council, and the long delay in getting out the borough fire apparatus will, it is said, be another feature of the case that will come up for discussion.

The fire, which was one of the most disastrous that has yet occurred in the borough, took place on Tuesday afternoon, and resulted in the almost complete destruction of Borough Councilman George C. White's large and handsome residence on Ridgewood avenue, near Maolis avenue. The loss is estimated at $40,000.

The fire broke out early in the afternoon, and was caused by the burning of Christmas greens that had been thrown into an open fireplace, and the flames came in contact with and ignited the mantel drapery. The flames spread to other parts of the house, but had there been a prompt response of the firemen the blaze could have been easily extinguished with but comparatively slight loss. As it was, the fire got over an hour's headway of the firemen and spread through the large house to such an extent that all efforts to save the structure were almost futile. Failing to get any satisfactory response from the borough firemen, appeals were sent to Montclair and this town for help. The appeals came from Mr. White's neighbors and other residents of the borough, who were amazed and horrified that such a large and magnificent dwelling should be doomed to destruction when so many firemen and so much fire extinguishing apparatus were so near at hand. Fire Chief Higgins of this town, in response to urgent calls for his services, said that he would order out the Bloomfield fire department if the Borough department asked for help. The reply came back that the Borough Fire Department could not be communicated with and the situation was desperate. Chief Higgins telephoned to Mr. Russell's office in Glen Ridge and was told that the Glen Ridge department had gone to the scene of the fire, and as no call for help came from the borough department the local firemen were not called out. Chief Gardner of Montclair was also appealed to for help and responded with one of the hose companies of the Montclair department, and was at work on the burning building when the borough department arrived there. One cause of delay on the part of the borough firemen was the failure of the fire alarm system to work, and as a consequence the firemen made a useless run up Glenridge avenue nearly to Montclair, instead of Ridgewood avenue, and as a consequence much valuable time was lost.

Pending the non-arrival of help on the part of the firemen Assemblyman Johnstone and others endeavored to fight the fire with the only available apparatus at hand, a small sized hose pipe, but the water pressure was so weak that nothing effectual could be done. Mr. Johnstone telephoned to the Orange Water Company's office, asking for increased pressure. He was referred to the Montclair office, and from there to the Bloomfield office. Mr. Johnstone gave the man at the Montclair office to understand that the case was urgent and more pressure was needed; the reply was that Glen Ridge was getting all the water it was entitled to.

It was said in Glen Ridge Wednesday morning that if the Bloomfield firemen had been officially called the fire could have been easily extinguished by them at any time within an hour after it started. The local fire department has been criticised for standing on ceremony in the matter. It is said by our fire officials that the relations between the local fire department and the borough department are of a peculiar character. While socially and personally the relations are friendly, yet when it comes to extinguishing fires the borough firemen are loath to seek aid from Bloomfield, and on one occasion when the our firemen volunteered their services they met with a reception that clearly demonstrated that they were not welcome. It was determined then never to go again to a borough fire unless officially requested.

The people of the borough who take upon themselves to telephone to the Bloomfield fire department for help on the occasion of fires in the borough, are not and cannot be expected to be posted on the conventionalities that prevail among firemen, and to them it rightly seems absurd that any conventionalities should prevail when thousands of dollars worth of property is being consumed by fire.

Mr. and Mrs. White were not at home when the fire occurred. The former was in New York and the latter in Newark. Mr. White was astounded when he arrived in Glen Ridge Tuesday night and found his home in ruins.

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